

**Security Council**

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**Letter dated 11 February 2011 from the Secretary-General
addressed to the President of the Security Council**

I have the honour to refer to paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1626 (2005), by which the Council authorized the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) to deploy up to 250 United Nations military personnel to Sierra Leone to provide security for the Special Court for Sierra Leone. I have the further honour to refer to my letter addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2009/679) dated 28 December 2009 and the response from the President of the Security Council (S/2009/680) of 30 December 2009, pursuant to which the 250-strong military guard force, contributed by Mongolia, was reduced by 100 troops. The remaining 150 military personnel were retained to continue providing security to the Special Court's facilities, personnel and highly confidential records.

The Registrar of the Special Court informed the Secretariat by a letter dated 13 October 2010 that the UNMIL military guard force would no longer be required beyond the end of January/early February 2011, since the evidence and archives would be completely transferred from the Special Court to The Hague in December 2010, and its international staff would be reduced accordingly.

During subsequent consultations, the Government of Sierra Leone requested that the withdrawal of the military guard force be postponed until the end of February/early March 2011, in order to allow additional time to train the local security personnel that will assume full responsibility for the security of the Special Court at that time.

In this connection, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations also consulted with the troop-contributing country concerned and other stakeholders. In a letter dated 13 December 2010, my Special Representative for Liberia proposed to the Attorney-General and Minister of Justice of Sierra Leone that, in order to accommodate the request from the Government of Sierra Leone, the repatriation of the military guard force take place the week of 7 March 2011.

Following the usual consultations, I therefore recommend that the military guard force be withdrawn from the Special Court for Sierra Leone early in March 2011. I should be grateful if the present letter could be brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) BAN Ki-moon

